

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE EVENTS ON EVE OF AL MEETING

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REF: CAIRO 11927

1. ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS LEISURELY MOVING TOWARD CONSIDERATION OF DATE AND VENUE FOR POSSIBLE SUMMIT ON LEBANON. "EMERGENCY" REUNION OF FONMINS NOW SCHEDULED FOR EVENING SEPTEMBER 4 INSTEAD OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED MORNING MEETING. "REGULAR" COUNCIL MEETING STILL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 6. SIX COUNTRIES TO BE REPRESENTED BY FONMIN (KUWAIT, EGYPT, BAHRAIN, TUNISIA, PDRY AND UAE); JORDAN BY MINSTATE; TWO BY AMBASSADORS (SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ) AND PLO BY "FONMIN" QADDUMI. NO MENTION IN PRESS OF WHOM WILL REPRESENT LEBANON AND SYRIA. TASK OF MEETING REPORTEDLY COMPLICATED BY SEPTEMBER 3 REQUEST FROM CHAMOUN AND FRANJIYA THAT SUMMIT BE HELD IN BEIRUT.

2. AKHBAR AL-YAWM REPORTS THAT "ARAB SOURCES" FAVOR INCREASING AL FORCE IN LEBANON TO 10,000. GUMHURIYYA VIEWS POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON FULL SUMMIT AS "SLIM" AND SPECULATES THAT CONTACTS WILL TKN TAKE PLACE FOR SUMMIT OF SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, KUWAIT, SYRIA, LEBANON AND PLO.

3. COORDINATED GOE-PLO POSITION. AHRAH REPORTS COORDINATED GOE-PLO POSITION COMPRISES FIVE POINTS: (A) CEASE-FIRE; (B) WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM "POSITIONS NOW OCCUPIED" (COMMENT: NOT AS PREVIOUSLY, TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. END COMMENT); (C) STRENGTHENING OF AL FORCE; (D) PROTECTION OF LEBANESE SECURITY AND INTEGRITY; AND (E) MAINTENANCE OF STATUS OF PLO.

4. AL SECGEN. ALL PAPERS REPORT GOE HAS INFORMED AL MEMBERS THAT IT WILL NOMINATE MAHMUD RIAD FOR ANOTHER TERM AS SECGEN.

5. ARAFAT PNG IN SYRIA. AKHBAR AL-YAWM SAYS ARAFAT IS NO LONGER WELCOME IN DAMASCUS BECAUSE SYRIAN TERRITORY CANNOT BE USED AS BASE FOR COMMANDOS AND ALL PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT THERE MUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE APPROVED BY SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE.

6. LEBANESE SHIA LEADER IMAM MUSA AL-SADR MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH FONMIN FAHMY FOLLOWING WHICH HE APPEALED TO ALL ARABS TO PREVENT SOUTHERN LEBANON FROM FALLING INTO ISRAELI HANDS WITHOUT A FIGHT. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE GOING TO DAMASCUS AT END OF CARIO VISIT.

7. COMMENT: PROCRASTINATION ON MOVES TOWARD SUMMIT
ATTESTS TO DISARRAY OF ARAB WORLD ON EVE OF WHAT
MAY BE LAST OPPORTUNITY OF ARAB LEAGUE TO PLAY ANY
MEANINGFUL ROLE IN ENDING LEBANESE CONFLICT.
WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT COUNCIL WILL AGREE ON
HOLDING OF FULL SUMMIT OR ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE
MEASURE. GOE-APPARENTLY ON URGING OF SAUDI ARABIA --
SEEMS TO FAVOR MINI SUMMIT, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO
SEE ANYTHING POSITIVE RESULTING FROM THIS MEETING EITHER.
SYRIA IS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND WE SEE LITTLE
LIKELIHOOD THAT FIGHTING WILL CEASE UNTIL IT HAS
ACHIEVED ITS MINIMUM OBJECTIVES WHEREVER THEY MAY BE.
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